



Frequently Asked Questions about Cervical Cancer

What is cervical cancer?

Cancer is a disease in which certain body cells don't function right, divide very fast, and produce too much tissue that forms a tumor. Cervical cancer is cancer in the cervix, the lower, narrow part of the uterus (womb). The uterus is the hollow, pear-shaped organ where a baby grows during a woman's pregnancy. The cervix forms a canal that opens into the vagina (birth canal), which leads to the outside of the body.

Why should I be concerned about cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is a disease that can be very serious. However, it is a disease that you can help prevent. Cervical cancer occurs when normal cells in the cervix change into cancer cells. This normally takes several years to happen, but it can also happen in a very short period of time. The good news is that there are ways to help prevent cervical cancer. By getting regular Pap tests and pelvic exams, your health care provider can find and treat the changing cells before they turn into cancer.

Where can I learn more about cervical cancer?

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the federal government's authority on cervical cancer. Contact them at 800-4-CANCER (800-422-6237) or go to the following web site:

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/wyntk/cervix>

The National Women's Health Information Center (NWHIC)

A Project of the Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

For More Information...

You can also find out more about cervical cancer by contacting the National Women's Health Information Center (800-994-9662) or the following organizations:

National Cancer Institute Cancer Information Service

Phone: (800) 422-6237

Internet Address: <http://cis.nci.nih.gov>

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

Phone: (888)-842-6355 (select option 7)

Internet Address: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/index.htm>

American Cancer Society

Phone: (800)-ACS-2345

Internet Address: <http://www.cancer.org>

Gynecologic Cancer Foundation

Phone: (800) 444-4441

Internet Address: <http://www.wcn.org/gcf>

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